Agriculturists' Relief Bill.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not move to introduce the Cochin Agriculturists' Relief Bill.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Regulation of Sales Bill.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not move the Cochin Regulation of Sales Bill also.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Point of Order: *re*: Continuance of Business disposed of under S. O. 26.—(*cont.*)

President.—Apoint of order was raised yesterday with a view to obtaining a ruling as to the effect of a motion carried under Standing Order 26 "that the Council pass to the business next in order" when the motion before the House at the time was to refer a bill to a Select Committee. The question at issue is shortly whether the carrying of the motion under Standing Order 26 has the effect of putting a stop to all further action with regard to the bill the reference of which to a Select Committee is before the House when the motion under Standing Order 26 is carried or whether that motion merely disposes of the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee and leaves it open to a member tomake a fresh motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee.

The real question for decision therefore is whether the words "the business then under discussion" include the whole bill or only the motion to refer it to a Select Committee. I have come to the conclusion that the words in question include only the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee and not the whole bill. Reference to a Select Committee is not an essential part of the procedure for passing a bill and it is open to the House to refer a bill to a Select Committee or not as it thinks fit and even if such amotion is made and negatived the member in charge of the bill may still move subsequently under Standing Order 32 that the bill be taken into consideration. It is clear therefore that reference to a Select Committee is not an essential part of the procedure for passing a bill and, that being so, it seems to me that "the business before the House" when such a motion is before it is only the question of referring the bill to a Select Committee and not the bill itself. It follows from this that a motion under Standing Order 26 that the Council pass on to the next business would have the effect only of disposing of the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee when such a motion is before the House and not of terminating all further action in regard to the bill. The case would be otherwise if the motion before the House when the motion under

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Standing Order 26 is carried is to introduce, take into consideration or pass a bill. If a motion under Standing Order 26 were carried when such a motion was before the House it would under Standing Order 42 (3) have the effect of terminating the bill.

I am therefore of opinion that the motion to refer the Cochin Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill to a Select Committee is in order.

Resolutions:—Amount sanctioned for Medical Relief—half to be set apart for Ayurvedic Department.—(*cont.*)

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—President, Sir, there is no question regarding the sanction underlying the grant of three lakhs of rupees. But the grant is made for medical relief of the people at large. Since the grant is not for the pay of particular persons and since it is a grant for the people at large and since in the Budget Estimates only the grants relating to the pay of certain persons are alone non votable, I think this grant should have been made votable by the Government.

The Government ought to have taken the opinion of the people to whom the grant is made. It is for the public at large It is not easy to guage the opinion of the public and since we are the accredited representatives of the people, Government ought to have taken the sense of this House before diverting funds for any particular purpose. It has been told that suggestions have been made by the Chief Medical Officer to the Government to appropriate the amount for certain purposes which the Government has under consideration at present and the Chief Medical Officer is awaiting the orders of the Government and it has been told that no amount has been set apart for the furtherance of the Ayurveda and the Ayurvedic hospital at present. It has no house of its own it has no space enough for the in-patients and it has no garden where medicinal herbs may be planted. Further it is ill-manned. It is called after the name of His Highness the late lamented Maharaja. When we moved the question that this ought to have been brought before the Council, the House was told by the Secretary to the Diwan that it was not votable. If this award had been before the demise of His Highness, would the Government have excluded the case of this Rama Varmha Ayurvedic Hospital as they have done now? The fact that this came after the demise of His Highness allowed the Secretary to the Diwan to say that it was not votable and that they did not want to take the opinion of this House. This attitude as the Malayalam proverb says "അപ്പോഴത്തെ ചോററിന്ന അമ്മെക്കൊല്ലും," is most reprehensible. I won't find fault with the Chief Medical Officer for it is true that he is very very selfish and partial to his first love whom he has wooed and won.

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